

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 11757 01 OF 02 011856Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00
COME-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
/120 W

-----035428 011914Z /50

O 011836Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2736
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 11757

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC, EGEN, UN
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC - US INITIATIVE ON ILLICIT
PAYMENTS

1. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE PROVIDES A WRAP-UP OF CURRENT
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STATE OF PLAY ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS INITIATIVE. NO ACTION
REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT RELEASED TODAY GIVES BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS OF US PROPOSAL ASSUMING TWO 1979 NEW YORK
PREPCONS AND 1980 DIPCON AT TOTAL OF \$193,600 OR
\$219,800, DEPENDING ON WHETHER DIPCON DURATION IS 2

OR 3 WEEKS. THE REPORT ASSUMES THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS WOULD BE THE TNC CENTRE, DRAWING UPON EXISTING RESOURCES.

3. THURSDAY NIGHT AND FRIDAY, US (WILLIS) HAD EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR HILL WHILE THE DISCUSSION TOUCHED ON ALL ISSUES, MORE AND MORE IT APPEARS THE SINGLE STICKING POINT IS FORMAL LINKAGE TO PROGRESS ON THE TNC CODE: PLAINLY, THE G-77 APPROACH IS TO HOLD THE ILLICIT PAYMENTS TREATY HOSTAGE FOR A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON THE CODE. AN ILLICIT PAYMENTS TREATY IS VIEWED AS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND OF AT MOST SECONDARY IMPORTANCE TO THE G-77. BEING STRICTLY SUBORDINATE TO THE CODE, THE G-77 SEES IT AS A POLITICAL ISSUE THAT PROGRESS ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS NOT OUTPACE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CODE. WE HAVE STRESSED THAT ON SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL GROUNDS, AND AS AN ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE, WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT CONCLUSION OF ONE IS DEPENDENT UPON CONCLUSION OF THE OTHER. (WE SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE LEARNED THAT AMB HILL HAS ARGUED STRONGLY IN G-77 MEETINGS FOR THE US PROPOSAL ON THE BASIS THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.)

4. THE ABUAH GROUP MET FOR THE FIRST TIME MONDAY AFTERNOON. PRESENT WERE THE USSR, ASSORTED EUROPEANS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND FOR THE G-77 - CAMEROON, VENEZUELA, UGANDA, IRAN, JAMAICA, ARGENTINA, MEXICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, BRAZIL, TUNISIA, COLOMBIA, AND INDIA. IN MOST CASES, G-77 REPS WERE PERSONS WE HAVE DEVELOPED SUBSTANTIAL CONTACTS WITH, WHICH IS A HOPEFUL SIGN IF GROUP DYNAMICS DO NOT CUT OFF COMMUNICATION. THE SESSION RAPIDLY REDUCED TO A DEBATE BETWEEN G-77 SPOKESMAN (DOUGLAS SAUNDERS - JAMAICA), US AND CANADA, IN WHICH ALL THE BASIC ISSUES WERE COVERED. USSR REP MADE ONE INTERVENTION, A SEEMING NON-STATEMENT, WHICH WE TAKE TO MEAN HE WILL NOT GET IN THE WAY, AND THE FRG A HELPFUL INTERVENTION OPPOSING LINKAGE. (THE EUROPEANS ARE FEARFUL THAT IN OUR ANXIETY TO SCHEDULE A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, WE WILL AGREE TO A LINKAGE, AND ARE USEFUL ALLIES ON THIS POINT IN OUR INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH G-77 REPS.) PRIMARY THRUST OF SAUNDERS' REMARKS WAS G-77'S POLITICAL NEED FOR LINKAGE, DWELLING ON 1976 HISTORY OF "INFORMAL UNDERSTANDINGS", THAT THIS WAS TO BE THE CASE. SAUNDERS PRESSED HARD, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT OF A CLASH ON OUR RESOLUTION. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THERE IS ENOUGH GIVE IN THE G-77 POSITION TO PRODUCE A MINIMALLY ACCEPTABLE RESULT.

5. SAUNDERS CALLED FOR ABUAH, THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS, TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL WHICH WAS AGREED. ABUAH IS STRAPPED FOR TIME BECAUSE OF OTHER CONSULTATIONS HE MUST CHAIR, SO WE ANTICIPATE DISCUSSION MAY CONTINUE INTO WEDNESDAY OR EVEN THURSDAY MORNING. THE ABUAH GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON, WITH UNCERTAIN RESULTS, AS WE ARE AWARE OF NO OPPORTUNITY HE HAS HAD TO OBTAIN INFORMAL INPUT, EXCEPT AS HILL MAY HAVE PASSED TO HIM WHAT WE HAVE STATED TO HILL AS OUR MINIMUM POSITION.

6. WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT FINANCIAL IMPLICA-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 11757

TIONS DOCUMENT REPORTED PARA 2 ABOVE IS INCORRECT. COSTS
WILL BE SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN ORIGINALLY STATED AND
SECRETARIAT IS WORKING ON A REVISION.

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